

## **Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility**

# **University of Maryland**

**Regent Drive Building 344  
College Park, MD 20742-3133  
Congressional District 5  
EPA ID #: MDD980829873  
Last Updated 6/13/2005**

## **Current Progress at the Site**

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EPA issued a Corrective Action permit to University of Maryland (UM) on September 30, 1991. The permit required UM to investigate whether releases occurred from various Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs). The facility conducted soil and groundwater investigations. Areas with soil contamination were remediated as follows. Contaminated soil was removed from the Pesticides Wash and Diesel Fuel Tank Areas, and the Diesel Fuel Tank was removed and replaced. EPA determined that other areas did not require remediation. Groundwater investigations indicated that groundwater in the three Paint Branch Landfills and the Metzerott Road Landfill areas may have been impacted by contaminants in these landfills. The University of Maryland conducted further investigations and low very low levels of dioxins were detected in a composite ground water sample taken from three wells. Also, methane was detected in groundwater. From the June 2000 ground water results, EPA concluded that the low level dioxin and methane, coupled with the low risk of human exposure, posed no risk to human health and the environment. Ground water underlying the University is not used as a drinking water source.

The facility will implement institutional controls to prevent any future use of groundwater for drinking water. Also, ground water monitoring for benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, xylene, naphthalene and methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) will continue at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, located on campus. EPA will reissue University of Maryland's Corrective Action Permit to incorporate these conditions. The permit should be issued in 2005. The Environmental Indicator Forms discuss that current human exposure to site contaminants is under control, and any migration of contaminated ground water is also under control.

## **Site Description**

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The University of Maryland at College Park is a state owned and operated higher education institution. The facility consists of a complex of academic and research buildings designed and used for performing the University's primary broad educational and research missions, complemented by residential, services, and support buildings.

The surrounding land use primarily includes residential property on the north, south and west property lines. The area east of the campus has been developed for light industrial/commercial business and residential uses. The campus occupies approximately 1,300 acres on topography that generally slopes toward the southeast. Surface water runoff is directed toward Paint Branch Creek located on the eastern margin of the campus. A portion of the eastern section of the campus is located in the 100-year floodplain. Based on landfill area studies, groundwater depth ranges from 2 to 15 feet and is believed to flow to the south. The campus lies in the recharge zone for the Patuxent Aquifer, the major subsurface water supply resource in the area. Ground water beneath the campus is not used for drinking water purposes.

## Site Responsibility

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RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA Region 3 with assistance from the Maryland Department of the Environment.

## Contaminants

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The residual ground water and soil contaminants do not pose any risk to human health and the environment. Groundwater at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute has benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, xylene, naphthalene and methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) contaminants.

## Community Interaction

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There has not been significant public interest to date. The public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the RCRA Corrective Action Permit prior to renewal, in 2005.

## Institutional Controls

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No institutional controls are currently in place.

## Government Contacts

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: [www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm)

## Facility Contact

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